

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 were pending in this application. Claims 1, 10, 13, 14, 15, 18, and 19 have been amended without prejudice. Claims 16 and 17 have been canceled without prejudice. New claim 20 has been added. Claim 20 recites subject matter that was included in the patent application as filed. Hence, claims 1 – 15, and 18 – 20 are pending. Reconsideration of the subject application as amended is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office states that claims 16 and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 16 has been canceled, but all of its limitations have been incorporated into base claim 14. As such, claim 14 is believed to be allowable.

Claim 17 has been canceled, but all of its limitations have been incorporated into base claim 1. As such, claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Independent claims 13 and 15 have been amended to include limitations from claim 17. As such, claims 13 and 15 are believed to be allowable.

Independent claim 10 has been amended to include limitations from claim 16. As such, claim 10 is believed to be allowable.

New claim 20 depends from claim 13, which is believed to be allowable. As such, claim 20 is believed to be allowable.

Claims 18 and 19 formerly depended from claim 17, but have been amended to depend from claim 1.

35 U.S.C. § 103 REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 2 and 6-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the cited portions of U.S. Patent No. 6,275,797 to Randic, *et al.* (hereinafter “Randic”), in view of the cited portions of U.S. Patent No. 5,878,113 to Bhusri, *et al.* (hereinafter “Bhusri”).

Claims 3-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Randic, in view of Bhusri, and further in view of the cited portions of U.S. Patent No. 6,834,040 to Tomberlin, *et al.* (hereinafter “Tomberlin”).

Although Applicant disagrees with the foregoing claim rejections, Applicant has amended the independent claims to include allowable subject matter to expedite prosecution. Therefore, all the independent claims and their respective dependent claims are believed to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully submits that the remaining pending claims are in condition for allowance. In addition, because the amendments to the independent claims are only for clarification purposes, no further search should be required. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn and that a Notice of Allowance be issued for claims 1-15, and 18 – 20.

INVITATION FOR A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 447-7739 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: February 27, 2007

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